

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Business Manager.
Horace G. Whitney, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:
One Year, in advance, \$3.00
Six Months, " " 1.50
Three Months, " " .75
One Month, " " .25
Saturday edition, per year, 2.00
Semi-weekly.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign
Advertising, from our Home Office, 157 Park Row
Building, New York.

CHICAGO OFFICE:
In charge of R. F. Cummings, Manager Foreign
Advertising, from our Home Office, 157 Park Row
Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 38 Clay St.

Correspondence and other reading matter for
publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 24, 1902.

THE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY.

Tuesday was the 97th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the Latter-day dispensation. He first opened his eyes to the light of this world at Sharon, Windsor Co., Vt., Dec. 23, 1805. He was of humble parentage, but was reared under honorable and Christian influences. His boyhood education was but meager, yet he was of a bright, intelligent mind and susceptible of the highest spiritual impressions.

The story of his early visions, the visitation of the Father and the Son, the restoration of the Everlasting Gospel, the obtaining of the metallic plates from which he translated into the English language the Book of Mormon, his ordination to the Lesser Priesthood by John the Baptist, and to the Higher or Melchizedek Priesthood by Peter, James and John, the manifestations to him of the heads of the different dispensations of the past, and the building up of the greatest ecclesiastical organization extant, has been repeatedly told and attested by many thousands of witnesses. We need not here recapitulate its wonderful details. We simply refer to them in speaking of this notable anniversary.

The grand event was suitably celebrated by special services on Sunday, the 21st inst., and also at gatherings on Tuesday eve, at which the chief events of his career were touched upon, and the Latter-day Saints everywhere rejoiced and gave thanks to God, for the advent into the world of the greatest prophet that ever graced this planet, with the exception of the world's Redeemer. Whatever unbelievers may think as to the divinity of the mission of Joseph Smith, those who are acquainted with his work and character have to admit that he was a most remarkable man, and that he introduced a religion which has become a potent force in Christendom and cannot be ignored or crushed out of existence. His name is revered by hundreds of thousands of intelligent human beings, and the doctrines that he enunciated cannot be overcome by reason or by Scripture, but remain, after all the efforts that have been put forth to ridicule or refute them, a light to the seeker after truth and a joy to the souls of his followers.

As the years pass on, the might of his mission, the value of his teachings and the force of the organization which he was instrumental in establishing, are more and more appreciated by the thoughtful and unprejudiced. They will yet prevail over the confusion, uncertainty and contentions of modern Christendom, and shine forth in glorious splendor, giving true conceptions of God and Christ and the relationship of mankind to Deity. His name, with that of his beloved brother Hyrum, will shine among those of the greatest of the earth, and eternally only will exhibit them in their true status and dignity among the Holy Ones on high. "Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah! Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer; blessed to open the last dispensation, kings shall extol him and nations revere!"

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS.

The great holiday of the year is upon us again, and it is to be hoped that the significance of it may not become lost in the feasting and merriment, and the distribution of gifts. At one time Christmas and the day of St. Nicholas were two separate festivals. The latter was eminently the holiday of the children, for on that day the good, old "saint" was supposed to distribute rewards to those who had been good, and punishment to others. By and by the two holidays were consolidated, as time for business became more precious, and now it is to be feared that in many cases, the meaning of Christmas has been lost, and that of Santa Claus only retained.

This should not be. The birth of Jesus was an event of the most stupendous importance. It means more to the world, and to every individual in the world, than any other event in human history. It was an event in which both heaven and earth were interested. No true believer will ever lose sight of the great fact that "the Word was made flesh," for the salvation of the human race, living and dead. It will be the guiding star of their lives, not only at Christmas, but daily and always. But inasmuch as one season has by custom been recognized as especially set apart for the contemplation of that greatest of all miracles, it behooves the followers of Jesus to devote, at this time, "to Bethlehem, listen to the harmonies sung by the heavenly hosts, and worship, with the shepherds, at the feet of the newborn King."

Some people refuse to see in Jesus the Son of God, or in His teachings the divine truth. But it should be too late at this enlightened day to deny facts so well established. The very triumph of the Gospel in the early centuries rests its divine origin. For without such origin, it would not have gone beyond the boundaries of Palestine. It

would have died with the tragedy of Calvary.

Let us for a moment consider the circumstances. Fanny Paul, or Peter, encountering one of the old philosophers, and telling him that the religion of Jesus was about to dethrone the ancient gods, and fill Parthenons with new heroes, and that the sign of the cross was to be raised as an emblem of salvation in the very midst of the "eternal city." We might imagine a conversation somewhat like the following:

"Are you, then, wiser than Socrates, Plato and other philosophers of Greece, and Rome?"

"No, on the contrary; God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. We are mostly ignorant, as the world thinks, and know very little about the philosophies of the sages."

"Do you count, then, on a conquest by means of invincible hordes, spreading terror and destruction in their way?"

"Not at all. We have been enjoined by the Master to go as lambs among wolves; to give our lives with patience and resignation, when called upon to do so."

"Do you expect that kings, rulers, and legislators will take up your cause, and aid you?"

"We expect only to be hated by all men for the sake of the Master, and to be persecuted unto death for centuries."

"But what is there, then, in the new doctrine that will attract all men to it? How will it conquer?"

"The fact is that this new religion inculcates morals purer than those now accepted, and therefore not at all to the popular liking. It proclaims that all men are 'sinners,' that is 'criminals' before God, and that they can be saved only through the Crucified One, whom it represents as God; its doctrines are, in fact, revolting to the common human understanding."

"That is to say," the philosopher exclaims, "you propose to enlighten the sages by the preaching of those who are ignorant; you propose to conquer the strong by means of the weak; you will turn the multitudes away from the vices they love, and make disciples by promising them hatred and persecution; you propose to dethrone the gods of the Olympus and place there in their stead a Jew, executed by the command of a Roman official. Was there ever such folly presented to the world?"

And yet, it came to pass that the world was thus conquered. For centuries the cross was triumphant. Can that be accounted for on any other ground than this, that God was with His servants who went to all the world with the message that the kingdom of heaven was at hand? Christianity did not spread and prevail through any human agency. It went contrary to human reason. It spread through the divine power.

And what can be said of the Gospel as first introduced into the world, is equally true of the Gospel now, which is the same. Its triumph is against all human probabilities, solely because God is with His servants. The Gospel truly bears the imprint of the hand of the Almighty, both in its contents and its progress throughout the world.

A SAD BEREAVEMENT.

The passing away of Hon. George W. Thatcher will bring sorrow to many hearts. It was not unexpected, because of his serious and lingering illness. But hope was entertained that his well known vigor and vital force would overcome, and that he would live many years as the useful, genial and capable citizen and warm-hearted friend, so well known and respected in this State, and particularly in Cache Valley, where he has resided for many years, and where he has figured prominently in its progress and development. We sympathize sincerely with his loving family, and with the people of Logan city, who in his demise have experienced a sad and serious loss.

A WORD FOR SANTA CLAUS.

Some well meaning clergymen, of Hamilton, Ohio, have decided that Santa Claus must be eliminated from the world of children. Their consciences will not permit them to encourage the "deception" of the old legend. They are so conscientious, so true.

This onslaught on Santa Claus has become almost annual. But the good, old saint still lives, and is as popular as ever.

It is hardly worth while treating such a subject very seriously. The point is, however, that great truths are often best impressed upon the minds of children in the form of fiction. And if fiction were to be excluded from the world of children, with it would go some of the grandest lessons conveyed to the human heart and understanding. In the legend of Santa Claus the joy of benevolence, the nobility of sacrifice, and the eminently Christian idea of remembering the children are set forth in a way that could not be done effectively by any prose instructions. The attack on Santa Claus is an onslaught on the sentiments of which that legendary saint is the hero.

But it is idle to condemn one little legend alone. With Santa Claus all the heroes of the legendary world must go. There must be no more Red Riding Hood, no Robinson Crusoe, no Rip Van Winkle; and still more the parables of our Lord, and much poetry of the Scriptures must go, too. Against this kind of alleged "reform," popular sentiment may well revolt.

THEY CONFESS GUILT.

According to a paragraph in Harper's Weekly, some labor leaders oppose the idea of having letter boxes on street cars, for the convenience of the residents along the car lines in cities. They fear that the presence of those boxes on the cars would be a protection of the property in times of strikes, as strikers interfering with such cars, would perhaps get into trouble with Uncle Sam. They suggest that separate mail cars be put on the lines, but that there be no mail boxes on ordinary passenger cars. A spokesman of the American Federation of Labor is quoted as saying that that organization is "opposed to any proposition that looks to furnishing the protection of federal courts and troops to the operation of a private enterprise employing a large number of working-

men, under the guise of protecting the mails."

That gentleman should be reminded of the fact that federal courts and troops should interfere only in case strikers should decide to destroy property, or prevent the owners of the cars to run them in spite of the strikers. Neither courts nor troops would compel the car hands to run the cars any longer than they themselves choose to do so. In other words, the courts and troops would not hinder them from doing anything lawful, but they would interfere, if an unlawful act were contemplated. And they ought to.

Employees have their sacred rights, as human beings and citizens of a great country, but among these are not included the right to destroy the property of others, or to prevent any free man from earning a living for himself and family. Those who express any fear of the federal authority, show thereby that they are in opposition to the law of their country, and that they rely on violence to carry out their alleged "reforms."

Compliments of the season to all!

Merry Christmas and many of 'em.

After all it's quite a pacific blockade.

Yesterday at La Guayra was a Red "D" line letter day.

A scandal in Saxony comes very near being "A Scandal in Bohemia."

The "New" will celebrate Christmas by taking a well-earned holiday.

A few kind words of sympathy from Leopold to George are now in order.

"Christmas comes but once a year, therefore let's be merry" tomorrow.

Is the flight of the Crown Princess of Saxony to overshadow the Venezuelan incident?

Castro accepts France's conditions. Great Britain and Germany are giving him condition powder.

Dr. Salmon, chief of the government bureau of animal industry, rightfully belongs at the head of the fish commission.

Down in South America they have got something new under the sun—it is the Calvo doctrine; but what under the sun it is good for no one knows.

It seems to be the purpose of the allies to demand that Venezuela shall do what they know she cannot possibly do. In which case one may ask: What's the good of anything? Nuthin'!

While initiating novitiates into the mystery of antiquity, Mrs. Tingley eats a strange, mysterious fruit. Is it the forbidden fruit? Another woman once did that and caused much trouble.

Cholera and the ladrones have broke out simultaneously in the Philippines. Now, if the two could be brought together and all others remain immune, it would do much to clear the situation in the islands.

If she would but consent to write the story of her unhappy life and flight from the court as Dresden for the sensational press, it would be worth hundreds of thousands of thalers to Crown Princess Louise.

Among the pretty calendars out this year are those from the Z. C. M. I. Salt Lake Electric Supply Co., Elias Morris & Sons, and many others, distributed by local business houses to their patrons.

Since his success with the anthracite coal strike Mr. Roosevelt seems to be enamored of boards of arbitration. He will, it is so said, appoint another if he shall finally be selected arbitrator in the Venezuelan dispute.

"Capitalists have a right to do as they please with their money, so long as they do not become public charges," says Judge Bond of the Missouri court of appeals. The judge should have said that they have a right to do as they please, which would have made his decision stronger.

If Mr. Roosevelt declines to accept the office of arbitrator it might be a good thing to select Mr. Cleveland. There is no one better qualified for the position, but perhaps his interest in the Venezuelan matter seven years ago would be objectionable in the eyes of at least some of the parties to the present controversy.

The commander of the Italian warship Bausan at La Guayra was anything but gracious in his conduct towards the American steamer Caracas. He was technical to the verge of trespassing on the rights of neutrals and it took Commander Diehl an hour to show him the error of his way. But he saw it finally, and that was the main thing. He simply displayed more zeal than discretion; that is all.

Superintendent Bicknell of the Chicago Bureau of Charities calls attention to one fact which should not be overlooked at this time of the year, when the desire for universal happiness and contentment is universal. Prosperity, he says, increases the hardships of poverty because prosperity raises the price of food and fuel. He might have added that prosperity makes poverty harder to carry, because of the contrast. The man who obtains the big profits is likely to forget the lack of quiet of the one who not only gets left out in the distribution of good things but is distinctly less prosperous than at other times because of the high prices of everything he buys.

The earthquake at Andijan, Russian Turkistan, seems to have been a most dreadful affair, thousands being killed. The place is so far away and the details have come in so slowly that the full extent of the calamity has not dawned upon the people of this country. But life in these times is so hustling and bustling that great disaster only cause a sensation for a day and are soon forgotten. Two score thousand people perished in Martineque less than six months ago and today people think and speak of it much as they do of the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii. And so many pay his tribute of astonishment and a tear and go about his daily task as though nothing had occurred.

VENEZUELA AND MONROE DOCTRINE.

Springfield Republican.

It is of no vital consequence that Italy has joined the Anglo-German concert, except in so far as more moral pressure may be brought upon the Venezuelan government to seek a settlement. The whip hand will continue to be that of England and Germany, acting together. And the future action of those powers will be on very conservative lines, compared with such action as either would take under similar circumstances in China. For Germany has already shown every desire to avoid giving offense to America, while England can no more afford to excite enmity in the United States than she can afford to fill in the Thames.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Venezuela is not to be sustained in acts contrary to the law of nations or against the law of common honor, but it has rights which even powers like Germany and Great Britain are bound to respect, unless they wish to gain a reputation of being two big bullies, pounding and kicking a small state that means as much to them as it does to them. The little fellow may deserve some punishment, but the big fellows will settle themselves in the eyes of the world if they are unnecessarily cruel. Besides, the United States has some interest in the matter, and neither Great Britain nor Germany should forget that fact for an instant.

New York Evening Post.

In the larger political and international aspect of the Venezuelan affair, it cannot be denied that there is reason for some anxiety at Washington. Our peculiar relation to warlike occurrences in this hemisphere makes it incumbent upon the administration to proceed with great caution, yet to proceed along the well-established lines of our public policy and national interest. No doubt, the Venezuelans would like to embroil us in their quarrel. But we must not let them do it without good reason. We must not allow the world to fall into the opinion of Prof. De Martens, expressed in this week's Independent, that the Monroe doctrine is, in our hands, "a kind of dynamite bomb that may explode at any moment and in any place."

Chicago Record-Herald.

The Russian jurist, Prof. De Martens, expresses the opinion in the Independent that the Monroe doctrine "has been changed from being an instrument of defense into a kind of dynamite bomb that may explode at any moment and in any place," and concludes some observations on expansion as follows: "But it may be permitted to doubt whether Americans, in the sphere of international conquest and in the presence of the militarism that such annexations must give birth to, can gain such brilliant results as they have hitherto won by their conquests in the peaceful sphere of commerce and trade. It is also doubtful if the laurels won in bloodless conquests in the kingdom of peaceful and productive labor."

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The Monroe doctrine, which means that the great nation never extend their dominion in this hemisphere, was long ago officially formulated and promulgated. Manifest destiny, which means that "the whole boundless continent is ours," has never been dignified in that way. Yet manifest destiny will continue to be the dream of many aspiring souls, and may some day—not now—become a reality.

San Francisco Chronicle.

If we say that Latin-American land shall not be alienated to Europe, are we not in some degree morally bound to assume the debt, and trust to time and our influence as creditor to induce such improvement in administration as will secure repayment? Does not, in fact, the argument of economy coincide with a certain moral obligation to assume the debts of Venezuela and become its sole creditor, under guarantees, enforceable by us, which shall prevent the creation of new obligations? It seems to us that it is well worth our while to consider such a proposition. England would welcome it. Germany, probably, would not.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Elder J. H. Ward, the editor of the Beechbacher, a German weekly, published in this city, has again issued a "Kalender," with a great amount of miscellaneous reading matter. The "Kalender" will be greatly appreciated by German speaking people of this region. It contains so much of interest, that a mere reference to the various features would make a lengthy article.

—J. H. Ward, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Student Life is the title of a new Utah periodical, published by the students of the Agricultural college, Logan. It is a very nice publication and bears evidence of considerable talent among the editors and contributors.—Logan, Utah.

The holiday number of Everybody's Magazine opens with another installment of the illustrated article, "The Woman That Toils," by Bessie Van Vorst. Then come the following: "Sal and Shumel," a new "Arabian Nights" story, by Alfred R. Calhoun; "To Her," poem, Martha Gilbert Dickinson; "The Personality of Helen Gould," by Juliet Wilbur Tompkins; "Journey's End," chapters IX-XI Justice—Miles Foxman; "A Member of the Masses," Katherine Holland Brown; "Good-Night," poem, Richard Kirk; "Little Stories of Real Life," "Kootenai Jack," a new story of the Montana, by Frederick VanRensselaer Day; "Tragedies of Steamboat Histories," G. W. O'Brien; "Great Days in Great Careers," Alfred Henry Lewis; "The Unemployed," by Mrs. Daziedick's "At Home," Mary Manners; "Some Gals' Terms," "How Roosevelt Became President," David Graham Phillips; and "How to Make Money," Katherine Newbold Birdsall.—38 east, Ninth St. New York.

Harper's Magazine for January contains a profound article on "The Man Who Is to Come," by Benjamin Kidd. Slime inside a watering trough or outside of damp barns, consists of uncountable millions of exquisitely designed, gem like plants which, under the title, "Plants of Crystal," are described and pictured, by Prof. Albert Mann in this magazine. There are more than 2,500 species of these microscopic plants, the diatoms, and the variety of the beauty of their forms is inconceivable. In an article, "The Coinage of Words," the fact is noted that Lewis Carroll's word "charlie" has found a place in the dictionary. Wu Ting Fang, writing on "Chinese and Western Civilization," says that China is a country that does not recognize the aristocracy of wealth. Greater importance is given to intellectual and moral superiority. There are a few samples of the excellent contents of this magazine. Interest—Harper & Bros., New York.

The first of the new "Stories Without Words," to be published in Harper's Bazar during 1903, appears in the January number. The stories are told by pictures alone, and the first of the series was done by A. J. Keller. Among other artists engaged on the work are Howard Chandler Christy, W. T. Spedley, and Henry Hunt. In the same number Lillian Bell addresses one of her interesting talks to spinners, under the title "On the Tendency Toward Creative 'bedness,'" in which her sympathy is more evident than her criticism. The cover design of the January number is by Alice M. Stephens.—Harper & Bros., New York.

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Ladies' 40c Golf Gloves for..... 25c

Ladies' 25-inch all Wool Serge Dress Goods..... 50c

Ladies' 65c White Fleece Vests or Pants..... 50c

Provo Mills fine White Blankets..... \$5.00

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